

Columbia National Wildlife Refuge

Hunting Regulations



Hunting is permitted in accordance with state regulations (see wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/regulations/) and special refuge regulations.

Open to Hunting – Geese, ducks, coot, doves, snipe, all upland game birds (excluding turkey), and deer; see map for species-specific areas.

Closed to Hunting – All other species of wildlife not listed are protected. Examples include elk, bear, snakes, raven, crow, coyote, turkey, porcupine, squirrels, and rabbits.

Deer Hunting – Marsh Unit 1 and Farm Units 226-227 are closed to all big game hunting. See the map for other open/closed areas.

Days – Except for Marsh Unit 1 (closes February 1) and Farm Units 226-227 (see next column), all areas that are open to public access are free-roam hunting areas and are open 7 days a week. Dove hunting is allowed only during the mourning dove season.

Hours – The refuge is open from 1-1/2 hours before legal hunting time to 1-1/2 hours after legal hunting time.

General Public Entry – For non-hunters, the open areas of the refuge are open to the public 7 days a week, from sunrise to sunset.

Firearms & Ammunition – Only archery, shotguns, and muzzleloaders are permitted. Centerfire rifles are prohibited. Only federally approved non-toxic shot may be used or possessed for shotguns; this includes buckshot. For deer, the use of lead slugs for shotguns and lead projectiles for muzzleloaders is allowed. Firearms may only be discharged in accordance with FWS regulations (50 CFR 27.42) and refuge-specific regulations (50 CFR Part 32).

Boats – Boats and other floating devices may be used on lakes open to hunting subject to state regulations.

Vehicle Travel – All vehicles, including bicycles, are restricted to designated motorized routes of travel and parking areas.

Dogs – Dogs must be kept on leashes, except during the lawful pursuit of game during legal seasons.

Blinds – Only portable or temporary blinds constructed of non-living natural materials are permitted.

Details on Specific Hunt Areas

Marsh Unit 1 – Hunting for waterfowl and upland game birds is allowed Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays, and federal holidays. Big game hunting is not allowed, and upland game bird hunting is not allowed before 12:00 noon.

Farm Unit 226-227 – Only waterfowl hunting is permitted; upland game bird and big game hunting is not allowed. The unit is open to hunting Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays, and federal holidays. All hunters are required to access the hunting area from the designated parking area (see map). Hunting sites are first-come, first-served. Hunters must park in the numbered parking space matching the number of the field post (1-3) they are using. Hunters must remain within 100 feet of the numbered field post (1-3) unless retrieving birds or setting decoys. A maximum of 4 persons are allowed at each field post. Hunters wishing to change locations must move their vehicle to the corresponding parking space before continuing to hunt. Unattended vehicles (e.g., to reserve a spot) are not allowed unless the hunter is in the field hunting.

Selected Prohibited Activities

- Overnight camping
- Overnight parking
- The use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting
- Baiting of any wildlife
- Fires
- Littering (including empty shotgun hulls)
- Commercial guiding for hunting
- Abandoning, discarding, or otherwise leaving personal property unattended
- Target shooting
- Discharging any firearm within 1/4 mile of any maintained building
- Trapping or netting
- Falconry

Contact Information

Columbia National Wildlife Refuge
51 South Morgan Lake Road
Othello, WA 99344
509/488-2668
www.fws.gov/refuge/columbia/

Columbia NWR Hunt Area Map

(See website and refuge brochure
for all other public access)

